

W. Germany completes deliveries to Israel

FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT—Bonn

An historic act of material compensation came to an end on March 31 when the Reparations Agreement between the Federal Republic of Germany and the State of Israel, signed in 1952, was completed.

Israel has received goods and services worth 2,400 million marks (about £216 million) under the reparations agreement during the past 14 years, and another 1,050 million marks (about £94½ million) in oil supplied to Israel by Britain.

These facts are given in documents published by the West German Government to mark the completion of the agreement. In publishing them, it was emphasised that there was no connection between the reparations pact and the economic talks which opened between the two sides last month.

Adenauer's plea

Writing in "Die Welt," the Hamburg daily newspaper, Dr. Konrad Adenauer, the former West German Chancellor, recalled his statement during the ratification debate in the West German Parliament in March, 1953, in which he emphasised the "grave and holy duty of the German people to aid the victims of Nazi persecution."

Completion of the agreement and the establishment of diplomatic relations did not mean, however, that the subject had been "cleared up," and he called on the German people to improve relations with Israel in the same spirit in which the Federal Government had ratified the treaty with the Jewish State.

The Government statement on the end of reparations said that much of the money had been used to build 60 ships for Israel with a total of 450,000 tons. Among the electro-technical equipment supplied had been five complete power plants.

Normal trading

The statement also said that the reparations agreement had resulted in "strengthening normal trade relations between the two countries."

During the past year, West Germany had imported goods, mainly citrus fruit and textiles, from Israel worth 206 million marks (nearly £19 million), and had exported to her goods worth 276 million marks (nearly £25 million).

The agreement also achieved its purpose of helping to promote the settlement of Jewish refugees in Israel by the delivery of goods to the State.

Several West German newspapers have emphasised the importance of past German help for the development of the Jewish State and have said that the German money has been well invested.

Completion of the reparations agreement did not mean that Germany had paid off her entire debt. The murder of millions of innocent people could never be repaired, but a new phase in German-Jewish relations was now beginning.

Minister warns on Nazis

From our Correspondent

COLOGNE

West Germany must not tolerate the glorification of the Nazi régime or the minimising of the Nazi persecution of the Jews, declared the Federal Minister of Justice, Dr. Richard Jaeger, in an interview here.

It was intolerable that a hate campaign conducted by individuals should be disregarded and left unpunished, the Minister said in making a plea for the retention of Article 93 of the penal code, which provides punishment for anti-constitutional propaganda in the Federal Republic.

Under revision

This Article, which, together with other parts of the penal code, is now under study for possible revision, was a great help in controlling Right-wing extremists and antisemitic propagandists, the Minister said, and had also been of assistance in the fight against the import of neo-Nazi and antisemitic ideas from abroad.

At a press conference in Bonn, leaders of the Right-wing National Democratic Party, which has been winning impressive support in provincial municipal elections, denied that they were successors to the Nazis and threatened criminal action against anyone who suggested that they were.

Asked why so many of the party's leaders were former Nazis, Herr Friedrich Thielen, the chairman, said they were not interested to know whether a man had been a member of the Nazi Party or the S.S.—the only thing that mattered was whether he was a decent man and a German citizen.

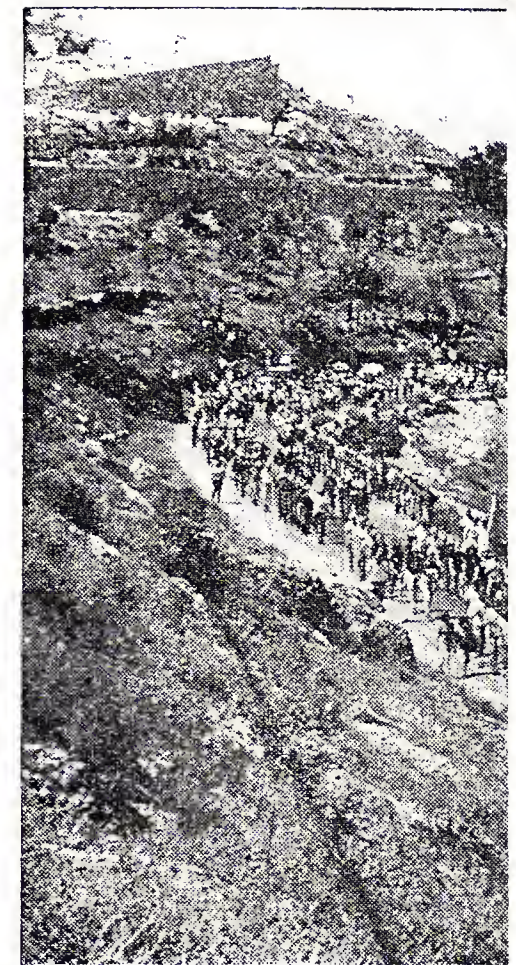
Munich court acquits two ex-Nazis

From our Correspondent

DUESSELDORF

Two former members of a Nazi special operations unit were acquitted in Munich last week of charges of complicity in the murder of 349 Polish and Jewish intellectuals in Poland at the beginning of the Second World War.

They were Jakob Loelgen, 69, and Horst Eichler, 55. The prosecution had asked for a sentence of four years' hard labour for Loelgen and the acquittal of



Stepping

Some of the 15,000 Israelis and for Passover march as they w

Passover in Moscow

Moscow

Approximately 1,000 worshippers crowded Moscow's Central Synagogue on Monday night at the start of the Passover celebrations. Others who could not get inside stood at the entrance and in the street.

For the first time in five years there were reasonable supplies of matzot in the capital and other major centres. Members of the foreign colony attended the Seder at the Israeli Embassy, which was conducted by the newly appointed Ambassador, Mr. Katriel Katz.

Congregations numbered in hundreds attended services at two other synagogues in the Moscow suburbs.—(B.U.P.)

Wi
a step
the Hu
a "wor
ing the
Rights

Ne

Fro

The Is
agreed to
million (
Hebrew
its short
that th
"friends
(about £
to make

The un
for the co
(about
accumula
Mr. El
president
years (a
usual for
request).
Mr. Mi
and Rab
were ele

La